

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3420

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATOMIN: SCHEDULING CONFLICT WITH TRUDEAU DINNER

REF: USMISSION NATO 2491

1. UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD OR COULD RECONSIDER HIS DINNER INVITATION OF JUNE 17 TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ATTENDING THE NATO MINISTERIAL IN OTTAWA, JUNE 17-19, 1974.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL PROBABLY BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A HARD-FOUGHT NATIONAL ELECTION AND FOR HIM TO BE SITTING HOME, AS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT HOSTING THE MEETING, WHILE THE QUADPARTITE FOREIGN MINISTERS DINE ALONE (PRESUMABLY AT THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RESIDENCE, DOWN THE STREET FROM HIS HOUSE AND ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS) WOULD IN MY JUDGMENT EXPOSE HIM TO UNCOMPLIMENTARY AND UNWELCOME REMARKS FROM HIS OPPOSITION. AND CHANGING THE LOCALE OF THE DINNER TO ANOTHER LOCATION
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IN OTTAWA OR CANADA WOULD NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

3. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE US PROMPTLY AGREE TO CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIES' REQUEST THAT THE USG USE ITS INFLUENCE TO AVOID THIS POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING SITUATION AND IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE THE PRIME MINISTER'S WISH TO HOST A DINNER ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 17 BY RESCHEDULING THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNER. WITH THE BRITISH (THE HOST FOREIGN MINISTER FOR THIS MEETING) APPARENTLY ALREADY PRESENTING THEMSELVES TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AS TRYING TO BRING THE OTHER THREE AROUND, I WOULD HOPE THE USG WOULD NOT BE THE THIRD OR FOURTH OF THE FOUR TO AGREE TO THE CANADIAN REQUEST.

PORTER

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